

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5512

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: TGEN, MARR, SP
SUBJECT: U.S. SPANISH JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION: JUNE 20 MEETING IN MADRID

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR THEMES OF THE JUNE 20 MEETING WERE
(A) SPANISH CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED DELAYS IN U.S.
FUNDING OF APPROVED PROJECTS (IT APPEARS MOST PROBLEMS
HAVE NOW BEEN OVERCOME) AND (B) AGREEMENT THAT, IN LIGHT
OF THE LONG DELAYS IN INITIATING FIRST YEAR PROGRAMS,
THERE BE ONLY FOUR PROGRAM CYCLES, RATHER THAN FIVE,
DURING THE LIFE OF THE TREATY. A BUDGET FOR THE JOINT
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF WAS APPROVED, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
OF THE SAME BUDGET NEXT WEEK BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS. A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR
THE SECOND CYCLE WAS DISCUSSED AND REMAINS SUBJECT TO
APPROVAL BY EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. A LIST OF POSTDOCTORAL
AND TRAVEL GRANTS TO SPANISH APPLICANTS PREPARED BY THE
JOINT SELECTION GROUP WAS FAVORABLY REVIEWED, ITS FORMAL
APPROVAL REMAINING TIED TO APPROVAL OF THE OVER-ALL
PROGRAM BUDGET. THE MEETING WAS CHARACTERIZED BY COR-
DIALITY AND A SHARED RESOLVE TO SPEED THE PACE OF THE
COMMITTEE'S WORK. IT WAS AGREED TO PLAN FOR A MEETING
AT THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES IN MID-NOVEMBER.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY MANUEL BARROSO, DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR THE SPANISH SIDE AND FOR THE U.S.
SIDE BY GEORGE RYLANCE, COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY FOR PUBLIC "
AFFAIRS. THE SPANISH COCHAIRMAN IN HIS OPENING REMARKS
MADE FORCEFUL REFERENCE TO THE DELAYS EXPERIENCED IN

IMPLEMENTING THE FIRST YEAR PROGRAM AND THE CONSEQUENT FRUSTRATION AND STRONG CRITICISM WITHIN THE SPANISH SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THE ERODING EFFECT OF INFLATION AND DEVALUATION ON THE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS MADE NEARLY A YEAR AGO. THE U.S. COCHAIRMAN RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. SIDE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE CRITICISMS AND WAS TAKING ALL THE REMAINING STEPS IT COULD TO IMPROVE THE OPERATION AND MINIMIZE SPANISH CONCERNS. HE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSALS WHICH HE KNEW BOTH SIDES WOULD MAKE IN THIS MEETING SHOULD GO FAR TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED. MR. BARROSO RESPONDED WITH THANKS AND AFFIRMED THE WISH OF BOTH SIDES TO WORK TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE THE DELAYS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. THE U.S. SIDE EXERCISED ITS RIGHT TO DECLINE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE SPANISH SIDE BY DECLINING ONE COOPERATIVE AND TWO DIRECT RESEARCH PROPOSALS, FOR WHICH THE SPANISH SIDE HAD ALLOCATED A TOTAL OF \$198,518, ON THE GROUNDS OF ADVERSE TECHNICAL REVIEW BY U.S. EXPERTS. NINE FIRST YEAR SPANISH PROPOSALS REMAIN UNDER U.S. CONSIDERATION. IT WAS AGREED THAT U.S. TECHNICAL REVIEWS SHOULD BE PROVIDED MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND THAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH SELECTION COMMITTEE WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE FUTURE U.S. TURN-DOWNS WERE MADE FORMAL.

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4. THE SECRETARY OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE GAVE A SUMMARY OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS TO DATE (TEXT BY POUCH). THE U.S. SIDE PRESENTED A PAPER ON U.S. FUND MANAGEMENT, PARTICULARLY AS IT AFFECTS CASH FLOW TO THE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND TO THE GRANTEES, EXPLAINING AGAIN THE U.S. REQUIREMENT TO MINIMIZE THE INTEREST THE U.S. TREASURY MUST PAY ON MONEY IT BORROWS FOR GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS. THE SPANISH WERE ASSURED THAT THESE PROCEDURES ARE NOT AMONG THE CAUSES OF DELAYS IN LAUNCHING PROGRAMS.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO THE SECOND PROGRAM CYCLE, THE U.S. SIDE PROPOSED THAT THE FIVE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS OF THE TREATY, PLUS THE 5TH TRANCHE FUNDS OF THE 1970 AGREEMENT, BE EMPLOYED IN FOUR PROGRAM CYCLES, RATHER THAN FIVE. THE SPANISH SIDE AGREED. BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF DEALING ORALLY WITH THE REVISION OF THE SECOND PROGRAM CYCLE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REDUCTION FROM FIVE TO FOUR CYCLES, THE SPANISH SIDE ASKED THAT THE U.S. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE SECOND FUNDING CYCLE BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING FOR ITS IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION AND RESPONSE. IT WAS AGREED IN

PRINCIPLE THAT THE DIVISION OF FUNDS WOULD BE ROUGHLY
AS FOLLOWS: (BY PERCENTAGES).

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COOPERATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS 75 PERCENT
DIRECT RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS 11 PERCENT
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS 11 PERCENT
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND CONTINGENCIES 3 PERCENT

6. THE SECRETARY PRESENTED A LISTING OF THE SPANISH
POSTDOCTORAL AND TRAVEL GRANT APPLICANTS WHOM THE JOINT
SELECTION GROUP HAD SELECTED AS GRANTEES OR ALTERNATES.
THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE LIST (ESTIMATED TOTAL COST
IN ROUND NUMBERS: \$403,000) SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING
PROVISIONS:

A) THE COST OF EACH GRANT AS ESTIMATED BY THE SECRE-
TARIAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A CEILING SUBJECT TO
CASE-BY-CASE REVIEW, AND B) THE JOINT COMMITTEE MUST
FIRST COMPLETE FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE SECOND CYCLE
BUDGET ALLOCATING FUNDS TO POSTDOCTORAL AND TRAVEL
GRANTS.

7. THE SECRETARY PRESENTED A PROPOSED JOINT ADMINIS-
TRATIVE STAFF BUDGET FOR THE YEAR STARTING JULY 1,
1978, WHICH HE HAD PREPARED WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
TOTALLING \$139,260. THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO PROVIDE
ONE HALF THE PROPOSED COST SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT LATER
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TO ALLOW INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE STAFF -- IN EXPECTATION THAT THE OTHER JOINT COMMITTEE WOULD DO THE SAME AT ITS MEETING JUNE 27. A QUESTION WAS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE'S (SPANISH) SECRETARY AS TO THE ADVISABILITY OF THIS STAFF'S SHARING USE WITH MILITARY OFFICES OF THE U.S.- SPANISH COUNCIL BUILDING AT OQUENDO 12, IN MADRID, WHEN RENOVATION OF THAT BUILDING IS COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR. THE U.S. SIDE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PRESENT JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF IS INADEQUATE TO THE NEEDS OF THE S & T PROGRAM AND PROPOSED THE HIRING OF A NEW EXECUTIVE-LEVEL PROGRAM MANAGER. THE SPANISH SIDE ACKNOWLEDGED THE VALIDITY OF THE U.S. CRITICISMS. THE COMMITTEE INSTRUCTED THE SECRETARY TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE E & C COMMITTEE ON CHANGES IN THE STAFF AND TO REPORT HIS FINDINGS TO THE COMMITTEE.

8. THE COMMITTEES AGREED TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL THAT INTEREST ALREADY EARNED ON COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS IN SPANISH BANKS BE RETURNED TO U.S. TREASURY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT FUTURE INTEREST BE RETURNED AT SIX-MONTH INTERVALS.

9. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON AUDITING THE PROGRAM ACCOUNTS, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT WHILE THIS WOULD BE REQUIRED IN DUE COURSE, AN AUDIT AT THIS TIME, EITHER BY GOVERNMENT AUDITORS OR BY A COMMERCIAL FIRM, WOULD BE PREMATURE.

10. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE NEXT MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER, HOPEFULLY AT THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, WITH A FIRM DATE TO BE ESTABLISHED LATER, PREFERABLY BY THE END
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